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Conquest of the Country northwest of the River Ohio, 1778-1783, and Life of Gen. George Rogers Clark. Over one hundred and twenty-five Illustrations. With numerous Sketches of men who served under Clark and full list of those allotted lands in Clark's Grant for service in the Campaigns against the British posts, showing exact land allotted each. By William Hayden English, President Indiana Historical Society. 2 vols. 8vo. Indianapolis, Ind., and Kansas City, Mo., The Bowen-Merrill Company, 1896.

These solid volumes contain a part of the material collected by Mr. English for a contemplated history of Indiana, to which they might have served as an introduction, had death spared the author to work out his plan.

The story of the Conquest is told at great length and with frequent digressions, all interesting in themselves, but out of place in the narrative which they interrupt. The author seems to have been embarrassed by the number of documents in his hands, as well as by the difficulty of keeping in view at the same time the biography of Clark and the events of the Conquest. There is no perspective in the composition and the attention is fatigued with unnecessary details. This is the more to be regretted that Clark was a remarkable man and that a well-written life of him would be a valuable contribution.

In the Appendix to the first volume Mr. English has printed Clark's Letter to George Mason (first published in 1869 by Robert Clarke & Co., Cincinnati) and Clark's Memoir, now first given to the public in full. The Memoir is without date, but Jefferson, in a letter written in 1791, speaks of Clark as then probably engaged in "writing the account of his expeditions north of Ohio."

Other papers are: A List of the Officers and Soldiers of the Illinois Regiment and the Land allotted to each; Sketches of the Men who served under Clark; Account of Clark's Brothers and Sisters; and a List of the Officers and Privates who served in the Campaigns but did not receive allotments of Land in Clark's Grant.

The work is abundantly illustrated with portraits, fac-similes, plans and diagrams, and with some not very happy sketches of historical scenes.

Names and Their Histories. Alphabetically arranged as a Handbook of Historical Geography and Topographical Nomenclature. By Isaac Taylor, M.A., Litt. D., Hon. LL.D., Canon of York. Author of 'Words and Places.' 8vo. New York, Macmillan & Co., 1896.

Canon Taylor says very truly, in the *Prologue* to this book, that

speculation as to the meaning of a name, without reference to its primitive form or to its subsequent history, is always futile, and frequently misleading, but this sound proposition has not always been kept in view. Learned as he is, Canon Taylor makes some rash statements, and in one instance, at least, he betrays a great simplicity of mind. He rightly condemns in his *Prologue* many of the American names, such as Memphis, Utica, Troy, Minneapolis, Indianapolis, and adds:

Worst of all is the procedure adopted in the new State of Washington, where the counties were named by shaking the letters of the Alphabet in a bag, and then emptying them, a few at a time, upon the floor, a process which has yielded such hideous monstrosities as Wankikum, Klickitat and Snohomish (p. 24).

State Legislatures are guilty of many things, but the counties of Washington were named years ago, before the Territory was admitted as a State, and the names Wahkiakum, Klickitat, Snohomish, Kittitas, Kitsap, Skagit and other unlovely combinations are genuine Indian names, racy of the soil. A Psalmanazar might invent them, but not a legislature, and a good mathematician might calculate how many years would be required to produce the single word, Wahkiakum, by the bag-shaking process.

Under *Sierra Leone* is the following explanation:

The word *Sierra* (Portuguese *Serra*) is often supposed to denote a toothed or saw-like range of mountains, but is probably a corruption of the Arabic *sahra*, which we have in the name SAHARA (q. v.).

This name Canon Taylor translates by *deserts* or *wildernesses*, and looks no further for the meaning of *sierra*, which is none the less the Latin word *serra*, and has nothing to do with Arabic. The testimony of Du Cange is decisive on this point:

Thereafter SERRA began to be used for mountain or hill: in which sense the Spaniards even now say *Sierras**

The article on Trinidad is pre-eminent for inaccuracy and recklessness:

. . . the look-out at the masthead saw three separate flat summits, which were afterwards found to be united, so as to form one island. Hence Columbus called it *Ilha de la Trinidad*. In like manner a triangular island on the western coast of India was regarded by the Portuguese as a symbol of the Trinity, and hence called *Divo*, now Diu.

Columbus says: subió un marinero á la gavia, y vido al Poniente

* Exinde SERRA, pro Monte, vel colle usurpari coepit: qua notione Hispani etiamnum *Sierras* dicunt

(*Glossarium Med. et Inf. Latinitatis*, Tom. VI, p. 205. Firmin Didot edition, 1840-1850.)

tres montañas juntas: (*Navarrete, Viages y Descubrimientos, Tom. I, p. 247.*)

a sailor went up to the main-top, and saw to the west three mountains joined together.

The island was named *Isla de la Trinidad*, because Columbus used the Spanish language. If he had meant to use Portuguese, he would have written *Ilha da Trindade*.

Diu, the "triangular island on the western coast of India," is not triangular, but oblong (six and a quarter miles in length and one in breadth), and it was not regarded by the Portuguese as a symbol of the Trinity. If it had been so regarded and if they had wished to name it in consequence, they could not have called it *Divo*, because that is not a Portuguese word and it does not mean the Trinity. It is an Italian word, signifying *divine*. Canon Taylor is apparently under the impression that *Divo* is the Portuguese name of *God*, but his learning is at fault, and those who follow his guidance will go astray. In the Portuguese language the name of *God* is *Deos*, or, more correctly, *Deus*, as in Latin. The name *Diu* is not of European origin; it is native to India. According to Yule and Burnell (*Glossary of Anglo-Indian words, p. 246*) it is derived from the Sanskrit *dvīpa*—island.

The examples given show Canon Taylor at his worst. Much of his work is well done and will be helpful if used with discrimination; but he is unfamiliar with Spanish and Portuguese, both needed for his task, and his knowledge of Italian is slight. He writes *Talavera della Reyna, Don Quadra* (art. *Vancouver*), *Rio das Amazonas* (as Spanish), *Rio Janeiro* (p. 17), *Riviera de Levante* (p. 27), *Piazza di Termini* (art. *Termini*), and the like. He spells the name of a well-known Russian city, *Vladikaukaz*, not regarding the value of the Russian *B*.

Some of these errors may be due to the printer, but for most of them the responsibility lies with the author.

In the following passage, from his Preface, Canon Taylor assumes a position and invites a comparison:

I have also omitted many recent names in the Arctic regions and in Australia, . . . as they will mostly be found in Egli's *Nomina Geographica*, a valuable though not always trustworthy work. Useful as this compilation has proved, I have, in most cases, thought it best to refer directly to the books he quotes, and to which his work serves as a sort of Index (p. v.).

Dr. Egli's work is marked by judgment and sound scholarship, not less than by wide reading and original investigation. It may be called a compilation, in the sense in which Grimm's dictionary

is a compilation; but to say that it is not trustworthy is to use words without knowledge. Dr. Egli is scrupulously faithful in his citations and interpretations, and it may be affirmed that the most patient search through the 1035 pages of the *Nomina Geographica* will fail to bring to light any error, implying ignorance or presumption on the part of the author. Not even Canon Taylor can say as much for the 390 pages of *Names and Their Histories*.

The Hill-Caves of Yucatan. A Search for Evidence of Man's Antiquity in the Caverns of Central America. Being an Account of the Corwith Expedition of the Department of Archæology and Palæontology of the University of Pennsylvania. By Henry C. Mercer, Curator of the Museum of American and Prehistoric Archæology at the University of Pennsylvania, in charge of the Expedition. With Seventy-Four Illustrations. 8vo. Philadelphia, J. B. Lippincott Company, 1896.

Mr. Mercer's thoughts had been occupied since the year 1890 with the idea of searching in the caves of Yucatan or Chiapas for the beds of charcoal and ashes associated with human relics and denoting human occupancy, when, at the end of 1894, Mr. J. W. Corwith, of Chicago, made an offer to the University of Pennsylvania to equip an expedition. Even then, with Yucatan in his mind, Mr. Mercer seems to have been undecided which way to turn; whether to Brazil, or to Peru or to Mexico. Prof. Heilprin came to the rescue with a report of large, dry caves in a small range of hills in Central Yucatan. In these there were signs of human habitation and they might be expected to furnish an answer to the question: How long had man lived in Yucatan?

The hills in question are in the western part of the peninsula, southwest and south of Merida, and they are overgrown with forest. The caves open into the ground like wells. They form, says Mr. Mercer,

a very striking class of underground chambers from fifty to three hundred and fifty feet in diameter and from fifteen to seventy feet high, more or less brightly lit by round openings in the ceiling ten, twenty and fifty feet in diameter. Through these skylights fragments of the original crust had fallen, forming piles of loose stones on the cave floor. When the downfallen accumulations set sufficiently against one side of the orifice, it was easy to walk down their slope, but, as a general rule, a chasm of some feet had to be bridged over in reaching them, either by descending on a rope or clambering down the root of the alamo-tree, which flourished on the brink of most of the skylights, often sending its tendrils to the cave floor. Where the rock pile was high enough, banana-trees and tropical evergreens growing upon it swept the brink of the chasm with their boughs, making strange rattlings when the wind blew. Some-